

Law Enforcement Division
Bi-Weekly Field Report
12/24/12 – 1/6/13

DISTRICT 1

CO Mark Leadman responded to a timber trespass complaint where someone had cut down a maple tree that was four inches in diameter. CO Leadman found the subject and obtained a confession. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Brian Bacon came across a vehicle parked in the roadway of a two track in Dickinson County. A check of the vehicle revealed an uncased crossbow on the front seat. CO Bacon contacted the subject a short distance from the truck who was hunting small game without hunter orange. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Brian Bacon checked early ice walleye anglers and encountered a subject who had seven valid arrest warrants. He was lodged in the Dickinson County jail.

COs Jason Wicklund and Dave Painter checked a local lake for tip-up activity after dark, and found tip-ups spread all over the lake. After walking the lake and not finding any activity, the COs tracked the owners of the tip-ups to a cabin on the far end of the lake. Many violations were addressed, including an overlimit of lines, unregistered ORV and unattended lines.

After CO Dennis Gast observed a group of anglers fishing on a remote inland lake the CO conducted a routine check for fishing licenses. The check revealed that no one in the group had a valid fishing license. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Doug Hermanson and Jason Wicklund worked an annual fishing tournament in Baraga County and addressed several violations, including unregistered snowmobiles, fishing with too many lines, unattended lines, open intoxicants in/upon motor vehicle, no helmets on ORV/snowmobiles, and riding ORVs with passengers while not designed.

COs Dave Painter and Jason Wicklund worked several Iron County lakes for fishing activity. The COs found a number of violations including one group of anglers who were fishing with unattended lines and were ticketed for the fourth time in the past five years.

DISTRICT 2

While on patrol in the Garden Plains area, CO Mike Evink contacted two subjects in a vehicle. Once contacted, the driver asked, "Hey, do you remember me?" CO Evink advised that yes, he did. The subject was written a ticket a few months before for open intoxicants in a motor vehicle. CO Evink then asked if the gun on the seat was unloaded. The driver said that it was and handed it to the officer. After finding the gun loaded in the chamber, CO Evink asked him about it. The driver explained that even though it was his gun, his partner was planning to shoot a deer. A ticket was issued for transporting a loaded firearm in a motor vehicle.

During follow-up on an illegal deer complaint, CO Mike Evink and Sgt. Darryl Shann contacted subjects at their residence. Three of the subjects were asked if they had purchased licenses, and all had shown their licenses to the officers. Also during the contact, several deer heads with antlers still attached were discovered. During discussion, one of the subjects explained who shot which deer. All three individuals had already shown unused kill tags. Tickets were issued to all three for failure to tag their deer.

CO Mike Hammill responded to a complaint in which he found an overwhelming illegal amount of deer bait, and an eight point buck tagged with someone else's tag which was illegally taken with a crossbow. The subject tried to implicate a friend from downstate in the Bay/Saginaw area. CO Hammill contacted CO Chad Forester who works the Bay/Saginaw area to conduct an interview with the new possible suspect. Upon contact CO Forester took a statement that explained how the original subject had called him and asked him to be his alibi for an illegal deer. The man was able to prove that he had not been in the UP for some time. After the wild goose chase the first subject was charged with the illegal deer and bait. Reimbursement for the deer is being sought and the crossbow and the deer were seized.

CO Kyle Publiski was on routine patrol when he encountered two subjects illegally riding double on an ORV. The pair were ice fishing and neither had a fishing license. Further investigation revealed that the driver was operating with a suspended/revoked driver's license and didn't have an ORV license. Enforcement action taken.

COs Kevin Postma and Kyle Publiski were assisting with a domestic dispute when they observed a vehicle operating in a careless manner. As the vehicle neared their patrol truck the subject started honking and flashed his high beams. He then swerved recklessly and came to a stop near the officers. CO Postma approached the driver, who claimed to be slammed drunk. The COs asked the man to exit the vehicle and upon doing so he finally came to the startling realization that he was dealing with the police. The subject failed the field sobriety tests and was lodged in the Mackinac County Jail.

DISTRICT 3

Area COs worked the December elk hunt and responded to complaints. COs Steve Speigl, Jon Sklba and Sgt. Greg Drogowski investigated a situation where an elk hunter shot an elk in a management unit other than the one he was assigned. A ticket was issued.

CO Matt Theunick investigated an incident where an elk hunter with an antlerless only elk license shot a bull elk with spike antlers. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Duane Budreau contacted a subject coming out of the woods in a truck who stated he had lost a dog in the area. He then contacted two bow hunters in the area, just heading out in to the woods and checked their licenses. A short time later, CO Budreau received a complaint from central dispatch that the bow hunters he had talked to just

reported their pop-up deer blind stolen, with fresh tracks leading to where the subject "looking for the lost dog" truck was parked. After a few days' investigation the suspect was identified and contacted, and was learned he had been recently sentenced to serve time in prison for other larcenies. The deer blind was recovered and returned to the owner.

CO Mike Feagan completed a hunter harassment investigation from deer season, involving a subject who would park his vehicle next to the complainant's deer stand, blow his horn and yell, all over a period of several days. Warrants are pending.

CO Matt Theunick received a complaint that a mink had been in a leg-hold trap for several days. The trapper was identified and received his second ticket within a few weeks for failure to check traps within a 24 hour time period.

COs Duane Budreau and Carl VanderWall responded to a night shooting complaint, and found a subject had shot a deer over a lighted bait pile behind a residence. The suspect is tribal and the case has been forwarded to tribal authorities for enforcement action.

COs Mike Feagan and Eric Bottorff patrolled the snowmobile trails and checked hundreds of snowmobilers. Several tickets were issued for registration and trail permit violations, as well as warnings for minor offenses.

While on patrol, CO Jon Sklba observed a subject sitting in a vehicle holding an uncased shotgun, parked on a state highway. Upon contacting him, CO Sklba found the shotgun loaded and the subject waiting for dogs to run a coyote across the highway. He also didn't have permission from the adjacent landowner. A ticket was issued for hunting from a motor vehicle.

While on patrol, CO Andrea Albert drove past a residence with a large burn pile out back that was emitting dark smoke. Closer inspection found a subject tearing apart an old travel trailer and burning it in the pile to dispose of it. A LEIN check revealed the subject had a misdemeanor warrant for his arrest. The subject was ticketed for the illegal disposal of solid waste and arrested and lodged on the warrant.

CO Andrea Albert received a Report-All-Poaching (RAP) complaint of a subject shooting turkeys behind a complainant's house. The complainant chased the shooter off the property and advised there were fresh boot tracks in the snow. CO Albert found a dead turkey at the scene and boot tracks that led to a nearby house. The shooter agreed to return to the scene with the .22 rifle he used and the turkey he shot. Subsequent interviews and investigation led to charges being filed against the subject for taking two turkeys out of season, felon in possession of firearm, PPO violation, reckless discharge of a firearm, hunt while license revoked, two safety zone violations and possessing a loaded firearm in a motor vehicle.

CO Nick Torsky and Sgt. Joe Molnar contacted an individual who had sealed a bobcat and stated he'd shot it with his bow. The COs interviewed the suspect and he admitted that his brother had shot the bobcat in December while deer hunting and he put it in the freezer so he could have it mounted. Charges are being sought through the prosecutor's office for taking a bobcat during the closed season

Sgt. Joe Molnar contacted three individuals fishing for splake in Montmorency County; they had 14 fish in their buckets and when measured, seven of them were undersized. When asked who caught the fish one subject admitted to catching 10 of them. Two of the anglers were issued tickets for keeping the short fish and also taking an overlimit.

DISTRICT 4

CO Rebecca Hopkins was checking a Leelanau County lake when she observed a group of waterfowl hunters on the lake. Their boat was checked when it motored across the lake to an access site. CO Hopkins located a loaded shotgun in the watercraft, one subject lacked a Federal Waterfowl Stamp and there were too many shotguns for the number of hunters. Enforcement action was taken.

While on patrol, CO Holly Pennoni traveled down a road in her patrol truck and nearly hit a horse standing on the road. CO Pennoni followed the horse to a nearby residence and searched for the owner. The CO observed a barn door open and went to see if the resident was inside. From the open doorway of the barn, CO Pennoni observed an untagged deer that was hanging. A few minutes later, the homeowner returned and the horse was safely secured. When asked about the untagged deer, the homeowner stated that he had tagged the deer but it was on parts he had already buried out back. A record check revealed that the subject had not purchased a deer hunting license. After being presented with this information, the subject admitted to taking the deer without a license. The deer was seized and a ticket was issued for the illegal taking of a deer.

While on patrol, CO Holly Pennoni observed an untagged deer hanging in a tree behind a residence. While inspecting the deer she also observed a light focused on a bait pile that was in excess of two gallons. Further investigation revealed that an individual at the residence had shot a nine point, a spike, and an antlerless deer during the season, but only possessed a combination license. Another adult at the residence had shot two six points in violation of the antler point requirements. When the investigation was complete, charges were issued for untagged deer, using tag of another, loaning deer tag to another, overlimit of deer, and antler point restrictions on three subjects. They stated they played the tag swapping game so they could get more venison for their freezer; the lighted bait pile also helped.

Back in September, a complaint was called in reporting three gunshot bucks dumped just outside of Traverse City with only their antlers removed. COs Sean Kehoe and Rich Stowe investigated and were able to recover security video from a nearby business that provided a description of the suspect vehicle. A couple of days later, a

second complaint was received of three more gunshot bucks with their antlers removed dumped in Benzie County. COs Kehoe and Stowe, along with CO Rebecca Hopkins developed several suspects through an intensive investigation and were able to obtain a search warrant toward the end of October. COs Hopkins, Kehoe, Stowe, Justin Vanderlinde, Sgt. Robert Torres and Lt. David Shaw, along with local deputies, executed the search warrant. Evidence seized included the antlers from numerous illegally shot bucks and parts from a black bear taken with the aid of a spotlight. Several subjects were charged with seven counts each of illegal possession of deer and one count each of the illegal killing of a black bear. Additional charges are pending the conclusion of the investigation.

Sgt. Robert Torres observed subjects ice fishing on a Grand Traverse County lake. The one ice shanty at the far end of the lake away from all the other anglers peaked Sgt. Torres' interest. Glassing the lone ice shanty, Sgt. Torres observed three tip-ups set up. Upon reaching the ice shanty, Sgt. Torres peeked in and observed the lone occupant also fishing a hand line. A ticket was issued for fishing with too many lines.

Sgt. Kevin Hackworth was on patrol when he encountered two subjects setting traps near a bridge. After making contact and checking one of the traps that was being set, Sgt. Hackworth observed that the trap lacked the required identification tag. The subjects stated that they had no idea who owned the property they were setting the trap on. A ticket was issued for untagged traps.

CO Carla Soper located a snowmobile abandoned in the middle of a roadway in Manistee County. CO Soper attempted to contact the last registered owner and had it towed, as it was a traffic hazard. Following up on the incident, CO Soper found that the snowmobile had been sold twice and the current owner did not want to call Law Enforcement when he realized it was towed because he knew he didn't properly transfer the registration or obtain a trail permit prior to operating the sled. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Carla Soper was dispatched to a trespassing complaint where someone had walked into track and retrieve a deer on the complainant's property. Before CO Soper could respond to the complaint and follow the tracks in the snow, the suspect made repeated visits to the complainant's property by foot and on an ORV. When CO Soper arrived, she followed the tracks onto private property where she contacted the subject at his residence. The subject advised that he knew he was on someone else's land and saw the postings as well as the deer blinds, but had to retrieve his deer. When asked why he made repeated visits to the property without making an attempt to locate the owner, he stated that he had lost an expensive glove and went back twice to look for it. Enforcement action was taken for the recreational trespass and operating an ORV in a prohibited area.

CO Brian Lebel was on patrol in Mecosta County when he located a group of hunters exiting the woods dragging an animal. At first CO Lebel thought they were coyote hunting but it was determined that the subjects had just harvested a feral swine. CO

Lebel then noticed a vehicle traveling at a high rate of speed towards their location. Upon making contact with the occupants, who were also part of the hog hunting party, a loaded uncased firearm was observed in the front seat near the driver. Enforcement action was taken.

DISTRICT 5

CO Matt Liestenfeltz investigated a trespass complaint regarding subjects trespassing and taking a large buck. The CO found they had tracked the deer onto the complainant's property. The deer had been shot with a crossbow after hours the night before over a lighted bait pile. Warrants for the subjects are being sought.

CO Chris Bowen was contacted by a landlord regarding a deer left hanging in a garage by tenants who had moved out. CO Bowen executed a search warrant and found the deer with no tag, a live black squirrel in a cage, and a marijuana growing operation in a closet. The marijuana grow was turned over to the Michigan State Police (MSP) and CO Bowen is attempting to locate the former tenants for further investigation.

CO Chuck McPherson reports that a subject who took a bobcat during the firearm deer season pled guilty and paid \$340 in fines and costs and an additional \$500 in restitution fees for the bobcat.

CO Mark Papineau received a complaint regarding a large plume of black smoke coming from behind a residence. CO Papineau responded to the area and was able to see the smoke from several miles away. When the CO pulled into the driveway, several subjects quickly jumped into vehicles and fled. The remaining subject was standing over a large hole in the ground containing the remains of approximately 30 burned tires. CO Papineau also observed approximately 100 additional tires ready to be tossed into the blaze. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Warren MacNeill received a complaint of a lost child who had received new hunting boots for Christmas and wanted to go try them out in the woods. The child went exploring in unfamiliar woods and didn't return home when expected. A multi-agency search for the child led to his safe recovery 13 hours after he left home.

CO Steve Lockwood checked a muzzleloader hunter coming out of the woods at the end of hunting hours who wasn't wearing any hunter orange. During the contact, the CO noticed the odor of marijuana. The subject quickly confessed and gave CO Lockwood his bag of weed. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jon Warner stopped a large group of ORVs being operated without helmets and with expired licenses. The spokesman for the group stated they didn't have to wear helmets because the motorcycle helmet law was repealed. CO Warner educated the group and issued tickets for no helmets.

CO Jason McCullough found a litter pile on state land with a name in it. A check of the name revealed the subject was in the local county jail. CO McCullough interviewed the subject who confessed to dumping the litter prior to being incarcerated. A ticket was issued.

CO Jason McCullough had received several complaints of a subject who was failing to check his leg hold traps within the required 24 hour period. CO McCullough set up surveillance on one of the subject's traps for 10 days. During the observation period, the subject never checked his trap. When CO McCullough contacted the subject with this information he quickly confessed to not checking his traps. A ticket was issued.

DISTRICT 6

In late December CO Quincy Gowenlock was checking campsites while patrolling the Gratiot/Saginaw State Game Area (SGA). The CO observed three campers which had been in the same spot since October, the beginning of the archery season. It was obvious to the CO that the owners just left the campers there to claim a spot while they went back to their actual residence. The CO issued tickets to the owners for camping in the same location for over 15 days and leaving their campsite unattended for more than 24 hours.

Back in August, CO Quincy Gowenlock received a complaint of an illegal burn. The burn was unattended and the owner was not home. The owner continuously failed to respond to any of the CO's notifications to contact him. In October the CO responded back to the same residence and found the same area was burning again. CO Gowenlock finally contacted the suspect by phone; however he refused to meet with the CO. The CO then had a warrant issued for the suspect's arrest. The next time they met the suspect asked if the CO would just write him a ticket. The suspect was advised it was too late and he was lodged in the Isabella County Jail with a \$9,000 cash bond.

CO Ken Lowell was checking ice anglers when he observed an angler walk over to another and place some bluegills in his bucket. The CO continued to watch the subject repeat the practice. Upon contact, the CO found that the generous angler had his 25 panfish and thought he would catch another limit for someone else. A ticket was issued for taking over 25 panfish.

CO Joel Lundberg received a call from a subject who wanted a bobcat sealed on the last day of the season. After talking with the trapper, the CO became suspicious. The CO asked the hunter to take him to the location the bobcat was taken. Upon arrival and checking the area the CO became even more suspicious. At this time the trapper said he did not want to talk any more. The CO then obtained a search warrant for the trapper's residence. A computer at the residence was checked and found to contain photos and dates the bobcat was taken. The bobcat was taken out of season. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Chad Foerster received information about a very large buck that was possibly taken illegally at night from a vehicle. During the investigation, it was proven that the buck was in fact taken legally. While talking with the suspect however, the CO uncovered a second deer which turned out to be illegally taken. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Phil Hudson observed a subject chasing a turkey in a field so he decided to sit back and watch for a while. The turkey chased the subject back to his residence and then the turkey ran back to CO Hudson's location. The CO observed blood coming from the turkey's head so the CO dispatched the turkey and discovered it had a small BB hole in its head. CO Hudson went to the residence where the turkey chased the subject and questioned the homeowner as to why he and the turkey were chasing each other. Upon further investigation, CO Hudson received a confession and located a 12 gauge shotgun the subject used to shoot the turkey. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Phil Hudson was at home on a day off when he received a call that subjects were catching several small walleye and that he might want to check it out. CO Hudson went to the AuGres River and conducted surveillance on several anglers and watched as anglers were hiding undersized walleye in their shanties. CO Hudson located five undersized walleye and wrote tickets to multiple anglers.

CO Phil Hudson was on a foot patrol when he located a large bucket full of perch in the phragmites. With assistance from the local county undersheriff, CO Hudson was dropped off and conducted four hours of surveillance in the bushes. An angler left the area several times and kept returning to check the bucket and look around in the woods to see if anyone was watching. Finally as it started to get dark, the subject returned to get the bucket. CO Hudson followed the subject back to his vehicle and located more fish. CO Hudson located and seized 181 perch from the angler. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Joshua Wright received a tip that a person brought in a fisher to be sealed and stated that they had shot it when they were hunting in the UP. The CO was able to make contact with the person and they claimed that they caught it in a trap when they were up deer hunting in the UP and then shot it while it was in the trap. CO Wright said that he was going to do a necropsy on it to see if it was actually trapped. Upon making that statement to subject, he admitted he shot the fisher and that it was not trapped. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Joshua Wright received a RAP complaint from a person who was out deer hunting and saw a vehicle stop near deer in a field and watched the driver shoot at the deer from the vehicle. When CO Wright arrived, he located a dead deer in the field. CO Wright parked down the road and watched the deer. About three hours later, CO Wright saw a couple of individuals walk down the road and then out into the field to the deer. The subjects dragged the deer to the side of the road when a vehicle pulled up. CO Wright contacted the subjects and obtained a confession from the person who shot the deer from the vehicle. Enforcement action was taken.

DISTRICT 7

CO Greg Patten responded to a complaint, near the Muskegon SGA office, of a safety zone violation after shots were fired by hunters near the office buildings. CO Patten arrived and located an 18 year old apprentice hunter who was accompanied by another hunter in his twenties. The apprentice was hunting small game without a license and each hunter had hunted and discharged firearms within the safety zone of the game area buildings. Each hunter was ticketed for violations and a discussion took place on the purpose of the apprentice hunter program.

CO Greg Patten ticketed a hunter during the firearm season for tagging a button buck with a firearm license. At the time of the incident, the CO advised the hunter he could still purchase an antlerless license but could not purchase a second firearm license. A computer check revealed the hunter went ahead and purchased another firearm license after being instructed not to do so, and is now facing charges for the illegal purchase.

CO Greg Patten was requested to check a report of shots fired in northern Muskegon County along a gas pipeline after MSP troopers could not navigate difficult trails into the area. CO Patten investigated and located three people in possession of numerous firearms, who were shooting and consuming alcohol. The driver of the vehicle was arrested for third offense operating while impaired, possession of firearms while intoxicated, possession of unregistered handguns and refusing a breathalyzer test. CO Patten lodged the subject at the Muskegon County Jail and sought warrants for the charges.

CO Gary Raak responded to a complaint of shots fired in Kalamazoo County where the complainant heard a shot on property he was hunting and found a dead deer. CO Raak was taken to the scene and conducted surveillance. At nightfall CO Raak watched a subject enter the property on an ORV, look around nervously with his flashlight, and attach tow straps to the illegally taken deer. The subject was very surprised to see CO Raak. Charges are pending for the illegal taking of the deer and for recreational trespass.

CO Steve Mooney was on patrol when he observed a vehicle being driven slowly down a dirt road next to a blueberry field, frequently stopping in the middle of the road. CO Mooney stopped the vehicle and located a loaded, cocked muzzleloader on the seat next to the driver. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Andy Bauer received information about a subject driving a black vehicle who was hunting with a gross overlimit of bait. CO Bauer located a vehicle matching the description parked near the site, and walked in and located a hunter; however, the hunter was a different subject hunting without a license. The next morning, CO Bauer once again located another black vehicle that matched the complaint description, and subsequently located the subject hunting over a truck load of bait. Enforcement action was taken in both cases.

CO Chuck Towns reported that while interviewing subjects involved in a poaching complaint a distraught subject approached the CO and wanted to know what was going to happen to one of his friends. When asked to leave the scene by deputies assisting CO Towns, the subject became hostile and refused to leave. The subject smelled of intoxicants and when asked for identification, tried to drive off and was apprehended by CO Towns and the deputies. Investigation revealed the subject's blood alcohol content was over the legal limit and he was in possession of a loaded, unregistered, 9mm handgun that was sitting next to him in the vehicle. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Dave Rodgers investigated a RAP complaint of a subject taking a deer near his home within the safety zone of neighboring residences. When CO Rodgers arrived to interview the subject, he was led to the garage area where he observed two unused combination license tags on a workbench as the subject explained taking two does during the last two weeks. A computer check indicated the hunter had no 2012 antlerless tags. CO Rodgers established the most recent deer was taken within 300 feet of a neighbor's residence, without a license, and the hunter has been ticketed in the past for taking deer after hours with a rifle. CO Rodgers took enforcement action for the illegal taking of a deer with warnings issued for several other violations.

CO Steve Mooney received a RAP complaint at 11:00 p.m. of shots and possible deer poaching. CO Mooney spoke with a second caller who had found blood in the road where a deer had been dragged out of a field. CO Mooney responded and was able to locate the deer at a local residence and subsequently obtain a confession to the illegal possession of the deer. The deer was seized and enforcement action taken.

DISTRICT 8

COs Derek Miller and Pete Purdy responded to a complaint of subjects without hunter orange who were trespassing, and contacted the trio at dark. All three subjects were hunting without hunter orange and had loaded firearms a half hour after dark. One subject could not produce his hunting license and stated that it was back at his truck, which was down the road. The subject then admitted to transporting his firearm to his hunting location uncased in the front seat. The subjects were hunting on private property and Consumers Energy property. Enforcement action was taken on two of the subjects. The third subject was a juvenile and was advised of how not to hunt.

CO Derek Miller responded to a complaint of litter and carcasses being dumped in an area in Lenawee County. On his patrol, CO Miller saw a vehicle traveling slowly down a dirt road and then shut its lights off. CO Miller figured the subject was shining, loading a deer, or dumping carcasses, so he stopped the vehicle. After a short interview and one subject having blood on his hands, the subjects admitted to dumping deer carcasses on the property without permission. The carcasses were picked up along with a small amount of trash, and a ticket issued.

CO Derek Miller responded to a complaint of a subject who reportedly shot a deer illegally and had another one hanging in his barn. Upon contact he advised the subject

that he observed a deer hanging in his barn and that they needed to discuss both deer. The subject gave a confession to shooting one deer without a license, and advised that the other was a car kill and they had not obtained a permit. A ticket was issued for the illegal deer and both sets of antlers were seized.

CO Jason J Smith received a trespass complaint that occurred during the firearm deer season. When CO Smith interviewed the subject at his home, he gave a full confession to trespassing and having an uncased firearm in his motor vehicle. The subject also admitted to trespassing on other property in that area for several years. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Kyle Bader responded to a RAP complaint and upon arriving at the scene, contacted a 13 year old hunter coming out of the woods by himself. The young hunter was carrying a shotgun, barely had any orange on, and said he thought his dad had his license. The young hunter told CO Bader about the deer his dad had shot this year. After the close of hunting hours, a hunter came out of the woods on an ORV. The hunter was not wearing any orange, not wearing a helmet, and had a loaded uncased 12 gauge shotgun on the front of the ORV. The hunter was a non-resident, but purchased Michigan resident licenses. The hunter admitted to not tagging the eight point he shot earlier in the season, and produced two unused combination licenses. He gave CO Bader a validated antlerless tag that he used earlier in the year. The hunter had no more antlerless tags so he was hunting the antlerless season without a license. Later in the contact, the hunter admitted to killing a second doe and putting his 13 year old son's tag on it, meaning that not only was the youngster unsupervised and not wearing orange, he had no license. Needless to say, law enforcement action was taken.

CO Pete Purdy contacted two deer hunters on private property. When asked if they had their deer kill tags, they first advised they don't carry their tags afield in fear that they would lose them. Then they advised the CO that they had too many holes in their hunting clothes and were afraid they would fall out. They then advised that they didn't think carrying tags when deer hunting afield applied to private property. Finally they stated they normally don't tag their deer until they get their deer home and field dress their deer. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Pete Purdy responded to a recreational trespass complaint in progress and discovered where a subject had dragged a deer off the complainant's property. CO Purdy then followed ORV tracks back to the subject's residence. CO Purdy located the deer hanging from a tree in the subject's yard. The subject wasn't home and the deer was seized, with a property seizure notice left behind. CO Purdy later contacted the subject who confessed to entering the complainant's property without permission to retrieve the downed deer. Enforcement action was taken.

While patrolling, CO Bigger noted a truck parked in a field just after the close of hunting hours. CO Bigger was able to hide his patrol truck and return on foot to the hunter's location. CO Bigger observed the area until 20 minutes after the end of hunting hours

before making contact. Upon seeing CO Bigger, the hunter set his firearm in the fence row and walked toward the CO. Contact was made and the subject was questioned about continuing to hunt after hours. The hunter had no idea that he was beyond the legal hunting hours and was also unable to provide his license or kill tag until it was eventually located inside his vehicle. CO Bigger retrieved the firearm from the fence row and confirmed it was still loaded. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Shane Webster and Damon Owens contacted a subject from an ongoing investigation into a 140 class 11 point buck that took second place on an area buck pole. The individual had entered the deer into the buck pole contest on November 15th; however, the individual purchased his deer hunting licenses after hunting hours had ended on November 15th. The COs interviewed the subject and obtained a confession. The subject stated that he had purchased his other licenses earlier in the year and had failed to buy his deer licenses. A warrant request is pending through the prosecutor's office.

CO Shane Webster responded to a complaint of shots fired after dark. CO Webster responded to the area but found the subjects had already left; however, a blood trail and fresh gut pile were found on the property. Upon contacting the complainants, it was determined only a single shot was fired before the end of hunting hours for the day. CO Webster followed up with the landowner and was informed that the person who was hunting had permission to be on the land. A name of the hunter was given and a statement that a button buck had been shot. A search of the name revealed he did not possess any antlerless licenses for 2012. The subject was contacted and he confessed that he had taken a button buck with his muzzleloader and did not have any antlerless licenses.

CO Todd Thorn responded to a complaint of a possible sick fox near a residence. CO Thorn arrived on scene and observed the animal as it ran off when approached. The fox appeared to be healthy except for its apparent lack of fear of humans. Hours after leaving the scene, another complaint was received that a fox had been shot in that same area. CO Thorn returned and located the dead fox and the shooter. The shooter did not have a license and enforcement action was taken.

DISTRICT 9

CO Linda Scheidler received a complaint of a subject who was in possession of a raccoon from the wild. The CO responded and as she approached the front door of the suspect's house, she observed a cage on the front porch with a raccoon and two cats in it. No one answered the door so CO Scheidler removed the cats and placed them in another cage and seized the raccoon. The CO left her business card and a note for the subject to call her. After not hearing from the subject, CO Scheidler stopped by the subject's residence. The subject stated the raccoon was hanging out and was friendly when he moved in so he caged it. He was informed he needed a wildlife rehabilitator's license to possess a raccoon. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Todd Szyska and Kris Kiel report that the subject who they caught taking a large sturgeon out of season took a plea bargain. The defendant pled guilty to taking a lake sturgeon during the closed season. He was sentenced \$600 fines and costs, \$1,500 restitution for the sturgeon, one year fishing license revocation, \$10 conservation fee, and his fishing poles were condemned. The 90 days jail time was suspended pending he pay all of his owed monies by mid February 2013.

While checking Consumers Energy property in Casco Township for illegal hunting activity, CO Ben Lasher observed a subject on an ATV without a helmet and with an uncased long gun. When the subject saw the CO he turned around and took off back into the woods. CO Lasher attempted to signal the subject to stop; however, the subject then drove through a corn field in an attempt to elude the CO. Officer Lasher pursued the subject as he drove through another field then onto some private property. At one point, CO Lasher observed the subject dump the long gun into a snow bank. The CO stopped to secure the firearm and when he did, he lost sight of the subject. CO Lasher back-tracked the ATV tracks to the residence on the property where the subject dumped the firearm. No one was home; however, a deputy pulled up to assist and a short time later a female pulled in and claimed to live there. She was informed of what happened and felt the subject was her husband. She called him and found he was the subject CO Lasher was tracking. She convinced him to return home where he was taken into custody. A warrant is being sought for felony flee and elude along with several misdemeanors. The subject has two prior convictions of loaded/uncased firearms in a motor vehicle.

CO Ken Kovach assisted CO Ben Lasher with a lighted bait pile on state land in St. Clair County. The COs checked the stand several times in an attempt to catch the subject in it. One evening, nearly two hours after the end of legal hunting hours, CO Kovach observed fresh footprints in the snow heading back to the stand. Using a thermal imager, CO Kovach sneaked back into the area and found a subject in the tree stand over an illegal amount of bait. After identifying himself, the CO ordered the subject down and observed him through the thermal imager un-knock his arrow. The subject had a string of green Christmas lights stuffed in a box that was connected to a battery on a timer. It was placed on the opposite side of the bait pile and at certain times, it would turn on and illuminate any deer that were on the bait. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Ken Kovach received a complaint of trespassing on property that wasn't posted. CO Kovach walked the property to confirm it was not posted, when he observed drag marks in the snow. He followed them to a nearby house and contacted a subject who stated his son recently shot a deer. Upon inspecting the deer, CO Kovach found it was not tagged and a check revealed the shooter did not purchase a hunting license. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Lacelle Rabon was on patrol when he observed several youths riding on a sled, being pulled by another youth operating an ORV. At one point the youths being pulled on the sled almost bounced off after hitting a mound of snow. There was no guardian or

adult supervising the youths. CO Rabon made contact and asked where they lived. The young female operating the ORV was under 16 and did not have a helmet or eye protection on. The operator went into the residence and had her father come out of the house. CO Rabon advised him of the law regarding youths operating an ORV. The subject became argumentative. The subject was asked to produce his identification and enforcement action was taken.

CO Brandon Kieft was checking anglers on Big Lake in Oakland County when he determined two of the anglers didn't have valid fishing licenses. After obtaining all their personal information, CO Kieft conducted file checks on both subjects. While dealing with one subject who had an outstanding warrant for his arrest, the other subject fled on foot across the lake. After transporting the first subject to another police agency, CO Kieft began to search for the subject who had fled the scene. Since he had already provided his personal information, CO Kieft was able to contact family members at his residence. With the help of the family, the subject was located. Tickets were issued for fishing without licenses to both subjects and one was turned over to local authorities on the warrant. The other was released to his parents.

COs Ben Shively, Brandon Kieft, and Mike Drexler responded to a complaint in Oakland County of a subject dressed in full camouflage who was taking a boat from his residence to hunt on a golf course closed to hunting. COs Shively and Drexler went to the golf course and walked back to the river in an attempt to locate the suspect and his boat. The COs searched the large area for over an hour in the snow and were unable to locate the hunter. CO Kieft had met with the complainant and was positioned to watch the river for the suspect. CO Kieft saw the subject come back down the river an hour after the end of hunting hours and radioed to COs Shively and Drexler who were stationed near the suspect's house. COs Shively and Drexler contacted the subject as he came ashore. The subject was trespassing, hunting with a private land antlerless license on public property, possessed a loaded firearm after hunting hours, was in possession of a loaded firearm in a boat while under power, in an unregistered watercraft with no navigational lights. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Ben Shively responded to a RAP complaint of subjects operating ORVs in the Highland Recreation Area and located one ORV with a passenger returning to a vehicle in a parking lot. CO Shively contacted the subject who advised that he was with a group of eight other ORVs. Shortly after making contact with the first ORV the group of eight other ORVs came to the lot. CO Shively asked why they were operating on state land closed to ORVs. They had stated that they saw snowmobiles out last weekend and thought it was ok. CO Shively explained that the area is open to snowmobiles only when there is a minimum of four inches of snow. Tickets were issued and the group was educated.